

REGIONAL MOBILITY COUNCIL

CHAIR – MIKE EARL · VICE CHAIR – SUSAN JOHNSON · PLANNING MANAGER – CURT HUTCHINGS

MINUTES

Five County Regional Mobility Council Meeting

September 23, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Five County Association of Governments

1070 W. 1600 S. Bldg. B, St. George UT

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Mike Earl
Ms. Christine Holliday
Mr. Curtis Crawford
Ms. Sheila Shotwell
Mr. Neal Smith
Ms. Toni Tuipulotu

REPRESENTING

Red Rock Center for Independence
Washington County Council on Aging
Iron County Council on Aging
Beaver County Council on Aging
Southwest Center for Behavioral Health
Five County AOG Community Action Planner

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING VIA TELEPHONE

Ms. Susan Johnson
Ms. Donna Chynoweth
Ms. Fayann Christensen
Mr. Dennis Broad

TURN Community Services
Garfield County Council on Aging
Kane County Council on Aging
Department of Workforce Services

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Todd Edwards
Mr. Fred Davies
Mr. Jeff Turek
Ms. Tammy Nay

REPRESENTING

Washington County Public Works
SunTran Manager
Washington City Councilmember
Cedar Area Transportation Services

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Levi Roberts
Dave Demas
Diane Lamoreaux

REPRESENTING

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QUORUM & MINUTES

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. Mike Earl, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. Ms. Susan Johnson, Ms. Donna Chynoweth, Ms. Fayann Christensen, and Mr. Dennis Broad joined the meeting via telephone.

Because a quorum was not yet available to approve the previous meeting minutes, he proceeded to Agenda Item #III, Clean Cities Presentation.

III. Clean Cities Presentation

Ms. Robin Erickson provided a brief introduction regarding her tenure and position as Executive Director of the Utah Clean Cities Coalition. The main focus and goal of the

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organization is to reduce U.S. petroleum use by 2.5 billion gallons per year through by reduction the dependency on foreign oil. The group promotes energy and independence issues. Handouts were available on the back table for committee members. Ms. Erickson reported that this is the only community based program in the federal government, and the U.S. Department of Energy began with the Clean Cities program. Today there are nearly 100 coalitions throughout the United States. Coordination for the Utah Clean Cities Coalition is provided in a Salt Lake City office and a local office located at the Washington County School District. The coalition is made up of local and national stakeholders, there are 13,000 stakeholders nationwide. Private sector stakeholders total 48% and public sector stakeholders total 52%. Clean Cities strategies include the following: 1) Replace petroleum with alternative and renewable fuels; 2) Reduce petroleum use through fuel efficiency measures, smarter driving practices; and 3) Eliminate petroleum use through idle-reduction and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. It was noted that Clean Cities has saved nearly 4.5 billion gallons of petroleum since 1993. Their portfolio of technologies includes: **1) Alternative and Renewable Fuels**-- Biodiesel, electricity, ethanol, hydrogen, natural gas, and propane; **2) Fuel Economy**-- Fuel efficient vehicles, driving habits, and vehicle maintenance; **3) Idle Reduction**-- Technologies and behavioral changes; and **4) Trip Elimination**-- telecommuting and ridesharing. The organization is big on idle reduction. Clean Cities strengthens markets through their efforts in connecting fleets with fuel providers and industry, training and information, technical assistance, funding, and education and outreach to decision makers, fleets and the public. The public is very engaged in alternative fuels and information was provided from the alternative data fuel center. An abundance of information is available at FuelEconomy.gov. Ms. Erickson reviewed a number of nationally recognized programs provided through the Utah Clean Cities Coalition and successful campaigns that have been utilized statewide. In addition, monthly newsletters distribution has increased 23% from 2010 to 2013. Funding provided through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) of 2009 created 300 new jobs and retained 175 jobs in the state of Utah. Charts were reviewed depicting the 2014 Gallons of Gasoline Equivalent Reduction of 13,084,264 gallons and the 2014 Greenhouse Gas Emissions which were reduced 45,353 tons.

Various projects and activities were reviewed in conjunction with the Turn Your Key, Be Idle Free program and the Truck Stop Electrification project. Decals for the Turn Your Key, Be Idle Free program are available free of cost. There are also larger aluminum signs that can be mounted in parking areas, as well as large posters that can be downloaded from their website at www.utahcleancities.org. You can eliminate some of the logos at the bottom of the sign and replace it with your own organization's logo. Ms. Erickson reported that Clean Cities is working with the national parks to provide electric charging stations at various locations in Zion and at Cedar Breaks National Monument. Some of the parks are also examining the use of electric buses. It is hoped that representatives of the five national parks, as well as the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, can be brought together to write a grant application to obtain some electric buses. It is a goal to have charging stations available at each of the national parks. Copies of Robin's business card were made available for those needing to make contact.

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Mr. Mike Earl noted that a quorum of members were now present and returned to Agenda item #II.

II. Approval of May 27, 2015 Minutes

Mr. Mike Earl, Chair, entertained discussion and/or consideration of a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 27, 2015 Regional Mobility Council meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Christine Holliday, seconded by Neal Smith, to approve minutes of the July 27, 2015 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, with Fayann Christensen, Dennis Broad, Donna Chynoweth, and Dennis Broad acknowledging Aye votes via telephone.

PLANNING AND REPORTS

IV. COA Director Reports

Ms. Christine Holliday, Washington County, reported that things are going quite well in Washington County in terms of transportation. All but one of their buses has over 100,000 miles which is causing some concern in regards to the reliability of the vehicles. However, there is an individual that wants to donate a propane powered bus to the county. The County is also considering the purchase of a smaller accessible van for transport of elderly clients. Levi Roberts indicated that these types of vans are used at the Tooele Senior Citizens Center in conjunction with the Veterans Administration. The use of a smaller van for transport on shorter trips will provide better service to more clients. Drivers must have a CDL license to drive the larger buses and it is difficult to recruit and retain qualified drivers. One of the buses has issues with the ADA lift but it is functioning at this time for transport. Washington County submitted their Letter of Intent to UDOT for funding.

Ms. Sheila Shotwell, Beaver County, reported that Beaver County has not been able to get a lot of use from their buses. The current driver is getting older and is not able to drive as much as in the past. His son is able to drive some, but he also has a job. All drivers volunteer, and it is getting harder to find someone willing to provide this service. Beaver County seniors celebrated Senior Day at the Beaver County Fair and had a great time. Ms. Shotwell welcomed any suggestions for more and better utilization of the buses. She also noted that there is not a director for the Minersville Senior Citizens Center. All centers utilize volunteers with the exception of cooks and meals-on-wheels drivers who are paid. Mr. Curtis Crawford reported that Iron County is also having difficulty recruiting volunteers to provide service in Cedar City and St. George. It is especially difficult to find someone to volunteer at the Parowan Senior Citizens Center. Ms. Robin Erickson suggested writing an application to secure Vista Volunteers for the purpose of recruiting and coordination of this activity.

Ms. FayAnn Christensen, Kane County, reported that things are going well but it is a challenge to find individuals who are willing to volunteer their time. Kane County has to pay drivers and staff a wage over \$10.00 hours an hour because that is what other

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businesses will pay. Two large hotels are under construction, and this will drain more people from the local labor pool. Transportation is doing well with several trips a month being provided to Cedar City and St. George. She reported that Kane County submitted their Letter of Intent to UDOT as well.

Mr. Curtis Crawford, Iron County, indicated that this is his third week on the job and vehicles are the only thing that he is not having trouble with. A recent trip to Tuachan went very well. One task on his list is the submission of the Letter of Intent to UDOT.

Ms. Donna Cheynoweth reported that things are going well in Garfield County with several trips a month out-of-town for doctor appointments and shopping. However, she had to purchase new tires on credit for a van and ADA bus. In addition, the doors are sticking on the ADA bus and this has caused some issues. Mr. Mike Earl suggested the use of bees wax on the rubber that is sticking. She indicated that attempts have been made to reach a representative with URSTA to schedule training for new drivers. Mr. Levi Roberts provided the telephone number for Stacy Rindlesbacher, 435-674-0066, who is the person to contact to schedule driver training. Once arrangements are made for the training, information will be forwarded to others on the Mobility Management Council. She would like to hold the training in Escalante if possible. Mr. Neal Smith suggested that future tire purchases could be made using the state contract. This is much cheaper and saves a lot of money.

V. Transit Director Reports

Mr. Mike Earl indicated that the transit directors were not available to report. It was also noted that Ms. Tammy Nay has resigned from CATS. Mr. Dave Demas reported that an agreement between Dixie State University and SunTran is close to being completed. This will increase student fees \$2.00 to \$3.00 per semester to cover the cost of transit. Students will be issued free passes for transit each semester. This will be a big help to SunTran in meeting their match requirements. This is something that needs to be accomplished in Cedar City as well.

VI. Non-profit Transportation Providers Reports

Ms. Susan Johnson reported that TURN Community Services request for two new buses has been approved by UDOT and they are in the process of obtaining the buses. She is not aware if their Letter of Intent has been submitted to UDOT.

Ms. Mike Earl reported that the Red Rock Center for Independence is required to provide 100 rides per month to the disabled population. This is a stipulation in their contract with UDOT, but there has not been any trouble in reaching that requirement. Vehicles are out all days of the week and are kept busy.

Mr. Neal Smith reported that the Southwest Behavioral Health Center has two buses, one in Cedar City at the Oasis House and one in St. George at Elevate. These provide over 300 driver hours per month transporting clients to doctor appointments, shopping, as well as on other trips. His main challenge is keeping up with the reporting that is required prior to report deadlines. However, both buses are now running well.

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VII. Mobility Management Report

Mr. Levi Roberts reported that this is his last day with Five County, and he is moving to northern Utah to accept employment with the Utah Transit Authority. He reported that at this time it is uncertain how staffing will be structured moving forward. Dave Demas and Curt Hutchings will be working with mobility management in the interim. He reported that travel training efforts have really picked up over the past month. There has been travel training provided to 15 individuals since the first of August. There is a lot of interest and there have been a lot of referrals for this service. In the interim, Clint Cottam, Director of the Community Action Agency at Five County, will be providing travel training. Clint can be reached at 435-674-5757 to schedule an appointment. Dave Demas will assume the responsibility of updating Google maps for the time being. The St. George Shuttle now maintains their Google maps changes. It was suggested that this may be a good time to transition this responsibility over to St. George City.

VIII. Bus Shelter Work Group Progress Report

Mr. Dave Demas reported that bus shelters are completed and working very well at Target and the Southwest Utah Behavioral Health Center. The stop at Lin's is still in the hands of the attorneys and things do not seem to move ahead. Dave has tried to contact the attorney for Lin's Grocery Store, but has not been successful in reaching or obtaining a response to this point. St. George City has taken charge of the stop located by Desert Industries. The stop located at 360 North Dixie Drive is supported by the property owner, but the City of St. George is currently in the process of procuring property in this location for a park. It is hoped that work will continue next year on at least two new shelters, especially for the higher usage stops. Mr. Mike Earl suggested placement of a shelter by Sunset Springs Apartments on Sunset Boulevard because this is a very busy stop.

OTHER

IX. FTA Grant Application Process Update

Mr. Levi Roberts reported that the Letters of Intent are due to UDOT on September 30, 2015. He cautioned council members that projects must be included in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. Funding is distributed in five year cycles and the next cycle will be 2020. If a project is not included in the Plan, it will have to wait until the 2020 funding cycle. It was noted that the Kane County Hospital had contacted Mr. Roberts to inquire about obtaining an additional van. This would need to wait until the next cycle because it is not included in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. It was noted that the useful life of vehicles has increased to seven years or 150,000 miles. Therefore titles will be held longer. The age limit also increased from 60 to 65 and entities are required to document individuals 65 and older for match. These changes will require collection of additional information as well as documentation. Ms. Robin Erickson suggested that contact be made with Representative Lowery Snow to inquire about possible legislation that would provide additional state funds for the purchase of alternative fuel or clean diesel vehicles. This is a problem for this area and funding for additional vehicles in the area is needed. It would be important to start this dialogue early prior to the next legislative session. She also reported that theUCAIR

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applications are due October 1, 2015. This is not a hard application to complete. Information will be emailed to committee members regarding this application.

X. Review Action Items

Mr. Dave Demas provided a handout of Action Items. He noted that Fred Davies was to send out information to committee members regarding handicap connections for wheel chairs. Dave will follow up with Fred to make sure that this information is provided. Levi Roberts indicated that he would forward the presentation to committee members for information provided today by Robin Erickson.

XI. Other Business

Mr. Sheila Shotwell asked about the travel voucher program and who is the person to contact. Ms. Toni Tuipulotu indicated that this program is provided through the Community Action office for consistent medical travel. Application can be made and once this application is approved, travel reimbursement will be provided. There is a cap of \$500.00 for Beaver County this year. People with medical needs would have to apply every year. Staff is still working to refine policies and procedures. This can be the client that is driving or another person that is driving the client. Drivers must verify that they are licenses and have insurance. Trips in Washington County must be ¾ mile outside of the SunTran service area in order to be eligible. Clients must be income eligible and/or elderly or disabled in order to participate in this program. Contact the Community Action office at 435-674-5757 for information.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held November 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Five County AOG offices in St. George.

XIII. Adjourn

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.